CLAIM(S):

1. A gas evacuation system for evacuating gas from a gas-filled flexible bag, the bag having a length and a width and comprising opposing flexible side walls sealed at the edges and defining an interior volume therein and containing gas in the interior volume, the bag having a top end, a bottom end, and side ends, at least one conduit and at least one port arranged at the bottom end or the top end, wherein the port is in fluid communication with the interior volume and the conduit, the system comprising

(a) a flexible polymeric sheet having a density of at least about 3 Kg/m^2, a sheet top end, a sheet bottom end, and sheet side ends, and a length and a width to substantially cover one of the flexible side walls of the bag; and,

(b) a flexible bag receiving device, the receiving device comprising a base and at least one raised wall, and having a length and width greater than the length and width of the flexible bag; wherein one end of the polymeric flexible sheet is secured to the receiving device.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the receiving device further comprises a retainer secured to the receiving device, wherein the retainer is arranged to hold one end of the bag.

3. The system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the receiving device comprises at least one set of opposing raised walls.

4. The system of any one of claims 1-3, wherein at least one raised wall of the receiving device has a cut out arranged to receive the conduit of the bag when the bag is placed in the receiving device.

5. The system of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the flexible polymeric sheet comprises a silicone sheet.

6. The system of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the flexible polymeric sheet has a density in the range of from about 3 Kg/m^2 to about 15 Kg/m^2.

7. A method for evacuating gas from a gas-filled flexible bag, the bag having a length and a width and comprising opposing flexible side walls sealed at the edges and

defining an interior volume therein and containing gas in the interior volume, the bag having a top end, a bottom end, and side ends, at least one conduit and at least one port arranged at the bottom end or the top end, wherein the port is in fluid communication with the interior volume and the conduit, and a gas flow path from the interior volume through the port and the conduit is initially closed, the method comprising:

(a) placing the gas-filled flexible bag on a base of a bag receiving device, the receiving device comprising the base and at least one raised wall, and having a length and width greater than the length and width of the flexible bag;

(b) placing a flexible polymeric sheet having a density of at least about 3 Kg/m^2 in contact with a flexible side wall of the bag, wherein one end of the flexible polymeric sheet is secured to the receiving device, the flexible polymeric sheet having a length and a width substantially covering the flexible side wall of the bag;

(c) opening the gas flow path from the interior volume through the port and conduit; and,

(d) passing gas from the interior volume of the bag through the port and conduit.

8. A method for evacuating gas from a gas-filled flexible bag, the bag having a length and a width and comprising opposing flexible side walls sealed at the edges and defining an interior volume therein and containing gas in the interior volume, the bag having a top end, a bottom end, and side ends, at least one conduit and at least one port arranged at the bottom end or the top end, wherein the port is in fluid communication with the interior volume and the conduit, and a gas flow path from the interior volume through the port and the conduit is initially closed, the method comprising:

(a) placing an unfilled flexible bag on a base of a bag receiving device, the receiving device comprising the base and at least one raised wall, and having a length and width greater than the length and width of the flexible bag;

(b) filling the flexible bag with gas;

(c) placing a flexible polymeric sheet having a density of at least about 3 Kg/m^2 in contact with a flexible side wall of the bag, wherein one end

of the flexible polymeric sheet is secured to the receiving device, the flexible polymeric sheet having a length and a width substantially covering the flexible side wall of the bag;

(d) opening the gas flow path from the interior volume through the port and conduit; and,

(e) passing gas from the interior volume of the bag through the port and conduit.

9. A method for evacuating gas from a gas-filled flexible bag, the bag having a length and a width and comprising opposing flexible side walls sealed at the edges and defining an interior volume therein and containing gas in the interior volume, the bag having a top end, a bottom end, and side ends, at least one conduit and at least one port arranged at the bottom end or the top end, wherein the port is in fluid communication with the interior volume and the conduit, and a gas flow path from the interior volume through the port and the conduit is initially closed, the method comprising:

(a) placing an unfilled flexible bag on a base of a bag receiving device, the receiving device comprising the base and at least one raised wall, and having a length and width greater than the length and width of the flexible bag;

(b) placing a flexible polymeric sheet having a density of at least about 3 Kg/m^2 in contact with a flexible side wall of the bag, wherein one end of the flexible polymeric sheet is secured to the receiving device, the flexible polymeric sheet having a length and a width substantially covering the flexible side wall of the bag;

(c) filling the flexible bag with gas;

(d) opening the gas flow path from the interior volume through the port and conduit; and,

(e) passing gas from the interior volume of the bag through the port and conduit.

CLAIMS

1. A gas evacuation system for evacuating gas from a gas-filled flexible bag, the bag having a length and a width and comprising opposing flexible side walls sealed at the edges and defining an interior volume therein and containing gas in the interior volume, the bag having a top end, a bottom end, and side ends, at least one conduit and at least one port arranged at the bottom end or the top end, wherein the port is in fluid communication with the interior volume and the conduit, the system comprising

(a) a flexible polymeric sheet having a density of at least about 3 Kg/m^2, a sheet top end, a sheet bottom end, and sheet side ends, and a length and a width to substantially cover one of the flexible side walls of the bag; and,

(b) a flexible bag receiving device, the receiving device comprising a base and at least one raised wall, and having a length and width greater than the length and width of the flexible bag; wherein one end of the polymeric flexible sheet is secured to the receiving device; and,

wherein the flexible polymeric sheet is placed in contact with one of the flexible side walls of the flexible bag such that the flexible polymeric sheet compresses the bag and gas passes from the flexible bag.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the receiving device further comprises a retainer secured to the receiving device, wherein the retainer is arranged to hold one end of the bag.

3. The system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the receiving device comprises at least one set of opposing raised walls.

4. The system of any one of claims 1-3, wherein at least one raised wall of the receiving device has a cut out arranged to receive the conduit of the bag when the bag is placed in the receiving device.

5. The system of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the flexible polymeric sheet comprises a silicone sheet.

6. The system of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the flexible polymeric sheet has a density in the range of from about 3 Kg/m^2 to about 15 Kg/m^2.

7. A method for evacuating gas from a gas-filled flexible bag, the bag having a length and a width and comprising opposing flexible side walls sealed at the edges and defining an interior volume therein and containing gas in the interior volume, the bag having a top end, a bottom end, and side ends, at least one conduit and at least one port arranged at the bottom end or the top end, wherein the port is in fluid communication with the interior volume and the conduit, and a gas flow path from the interior volume through the port and the conduit is initially closed, the method comprising:

(a) placing the gas-filled flexible bag on a base of a bag receiving device, the receiving device comprising the base and at least one raised wall, and having a length and width greater than the length and width of the flexible bag;

(b) placing a flexible polymeric sheet having a density of at least about 3 Kg/m^2 in contact with a flexible side wall of the bag, wherein one end of the flexible polymeric sheet is secured to the receiving device, the flexible polymeric sheet having a length and a width substantially covering the flexible side wall of the bag;

(c) opening the gas flow path from the interior volume through the port and conduit; and,

(d) compressing the flexible bag by the flexible polymeric sheet and passing gas from the interior volume of the bag through the port and conduit.

8. A method for evacuating gas from a gas-filled flexible bag, the bag having a length and a width and comprising opposing flexible side walls sealed at the edges and defining an interior volume therein and containing gas in the interior volume, the bag having a top end, a bottom end, and side ends, at least one conduit and at least one port arranged at the bottom end or the top end, wherein the port is in fluid communication with the interior volume and the conduit, and a gas flow path from the interior volume through the port and the conduit is initially closed, the method comprising:

(a) placing an unfilled flexible bag on a base of a bag receiving device, the receiving device comprising the base and at least one raised wall, and having a length and width greater than the length and width of the flexible bag;

(b) filling the flexible bag with gas;

(c) placing a flexible polymeric sheet having a density of at least about 3 Kg/m^2 in contact with a flexible side wall of the bag, wherein one end of the flexible polymeric sheet is secured to the receiving device, the flexible polymeric sheet having a length and a width substantially covering the flexible side wall of the bag;

(d) opening the gas flow path from the interior volume through the port and conduit; and,

(e) compressing the flexible bag by the flexible polymeric sheet and passing gas from the interior volume of the bag through the port and conduit.

9. A method for evacuating gas from a gas-filled flexible bag, the bag having a length and a width and comprising opposing flexible side walls sealed at the edges and defining an interior volume therein and containing gas in the interior volume, the bag having a top end, a bottom end, and side ends, at least one conduit and at least one port arranged at the bottom end or the top end, wherein the port is in fluid communication with the interior volume and the conduit, and a gas flow path from the interior volume through the port and the conduit is initially closed, the method comprising:

(a) placing an unfilled flexible bag on a base of a bag receiving device, the receiving device comprising the base and at least one raised wall, and having a length and width greater than the length and width of the flexible bag;

(b) placing a flexible polymeric sheet having a density of at least about 3 Kg/m^2 in contact with a flexible side wall of the bag, wherein one end of the flexible polymeric sheet is secured to the receiving device, the flexible polymeric sheet having a length and a width substantially covering the flexible side wall of the bag;

(c) filling the flexible bag with gas;

(d) opening the gas flow path from the interior volume through the port and conduit; and,

(e) compressing the flexible bag by the flexible polymeric sheet and passing gas from the interior volume of the bag through the port and conduit.

10. The system of any one of claims 1-6, wherein the flexible polymeric sheet does not cover the at least one port of the bag.